



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Required Report - public distribution

Date: 6/13/2007

GAIN Report Number: SG7012

Senegal

Grain and Feed

Rice Imports

2007

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Report Highlights:

First quarter 2007 rice imports totaled 238,226 MT, up 21percent compared to the previous quarter. Imports of all rice grades remain dominated by Thailand, although South American countries, namely Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina continue to increase their shipments to Senegal. There were no shipments from the U.S. during this quarter.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: Yes
Quarterly Report
Dakar [SG1]
[SG]

Executive Summary

Senegal's overall rice imports in 2006 totaled nearly 797,000 tons. Thailand, Vietnam, India, Brazil and Uruguay were the leading export countries to Senegal. Imports from the United States were 3,102 tons of semi-milled rice, all through food aid monetization programs.

During the first quarter of 2007, Senegal's rice imports totaled nearly 238,000 tons, up from 196,419 tons in the previous quarter. Imports decreased in March; down at about 41,000 tons from 113,352 tons in February. This is usually the case when the commercial stocks are high. However, these figures are lower than the average quarterly imports of nearly 200,000 tons over the last six quarters. Approximately, 95% of these imports were broken rice from Thailand, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay. Only about 11,000 tons of semi-milled rice was imported from Thailand during this quarter, which confirms consumers' preference for broken rice. Most of the demand for rice (about 175,000 tons a quarter) is still met by imports.

Senegal's imports were affected by the political crisis in Thailand, the suspension of exports in Vietnam, and the flooding in Indonesia. The Marketing Regulation Agency reported that in mid-January, the regulation stocks were below its normal level and would not meet demand for the next two months. The higher prices in the international market reduced imports in the previous quarters. Consequently, the regulation stocks were reduced to less than 100,000 tons, which led to an increase in wholesale and retail prices. The Agency forecasts that the shipments in February would increase the regulation stock to 200,000 tons by March 15. However, this decision did not translate into a decrease in price. Prices have increased 10 to 12 percent over the quarter.

Mrs. Oranuj Osatanada, Thailand Vice Minister of Commerce visited Senegal in March along with a few Thai rice companies to meet with Senegal's Minister of Commerce and discuss rice trade between the two countries. This diplomatic move is reportedly related to the increasing imports from South American countries, namely Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina. Senegal imports 70% of its total rice imports from Thailand.

Exchange Rate: U.S. \$1 = CFA franc 492 on June 11, 2007.

2006 Rice Imports by Grade and Country of Origin			
Category	Country	Quantity MT	Value USD
Cargo Rice/Brown			
	Vietnam	59	11,010
	Others	1	1,280
	Total	60	12,289
Semi-milled Rice + 5KG			
	U.S.	3,102	1,922,852
	Thailand	663	231,538
	Others	1	847
	Total Semi-milled Rice + 5KG	3,766	2,155,237
Semi-milled 5KG or less			
	Thailand	533	253,046
	Others	20	33,463
	Total Semi-milled 5kg or less	553	286,509
Broken Rice			
	Thailand	394,501	122,949,833
	Vietnam	120,303	37,564,483
	India	99,929	30,705,626
	Brazil	91,524	28,462,055
	Uruguay	55,049	17,017,391
	Syria	7,480	2,354,809
	China	5,900	1,833,269
	Switzerland	3,663	1,170,131
	Pakistan	3,447	1,194,935
	Australia	3,248	1,109,121
	Egypt	3,000	932,927
	Others	4,562	1,227,757
	Total broken rice	792,607	246,522,338
	Total Rice All grades	796,986	248,976,373
	Total U.S. Rice	3,102	1,922,852

Source: Annual Statistics, Trade. National Statistics and Demography Agency, 2006

Quarterly Imports (MT)			
Grade/Export country	Jan-07	Feb-07	Mar-07
Rice, Semi-milled			
Thailand	250	46	10,438
United States	0	0	0
Total Semi-milled	250	46	10,438
Rice, Broken			
Thailand	77,618	82,606	25,193
Brazil	0	20,861	0
Uruguay	0	9,885	0
Argentina	5,599	0	5,491
Total Broken	83,217	113,352	30,684
Total All Grades	83,467	113,398	41,122

Source: Senegal Foreign Trade, Quarterly Bulletin; GTIS database